

# The Living Springs Journal

“CELEBRATE...SHARE...SERVE”  
ACCORDING TO GOD’S WILL

April 2023



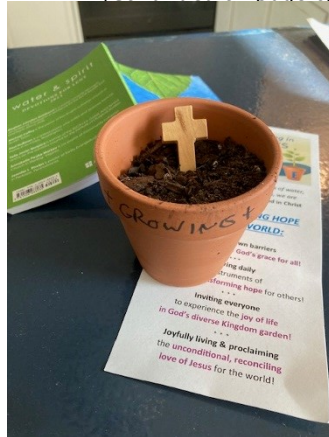
# The "Other" Tree (from Pastor Eric)

APRIL "BOOK" OF THE MONTH = Matthew, chapters 15-28  
PASTOR TIMES: Tues, Apr. 11 @ 10am; Sun, Apr. 16 @ 9:20am

It has been such a powerful Lenten journey we have shared the past weeks, focusing on "God's growing hope." In these 40 holy days, I pray you have sensed the **growing hope of God being planted in the soil of your heart**—especially in worship & times of Lenten devotions in your home, gathered around those **little pots of hope**. Each week, we have added a word to those pots: *grace—hope—love—joy*. And each Sunday, we have added an additional **tree of hope** in the sanctuary.

I look at the 4 growing trees of hope in the sanctuary, and behind them, I see a **5th tree!** It is the cross, a wooden "tree" on which Jesus, God's Son, was nailed in the ultimate gift of hope ever given for the world! I stare my own little devotional pot—and there protruding up from the soil is another wooden cross. That little cross, along with that 5th "tree" in the sanctuary, remind me of the **source of the growing**

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With all the Spirit has been growing in Lent, we now move to the holiest & most important week of our lives as followers of Jesus!

**PALM/PASSION SUNDAY, APRIL 2**  
8:15 & 10:30 (Egg Hunt @ 3pm)

**HOLY MONDAY, APRIL 3**  
Service of Healing & Blessing, 12 & 6:45

**HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4**  
Bible Book of Month Reading, posted @ 12

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 6**  
Upper Room Communion Worship, 12 & 6:45  
(Stripping of Altar @ 6:45, Rite of foot-washing offered before/after 6:45 worship)

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7**  
"Words from the Cross" Tenebrae, 6:45  
(Walking of Cross @ 9am & 3pm)

**HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 8**  
Easter Vigil Worship, 7:30

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9!**  
"Son-Rise" Worship, 6:45am  
Easter Worship, 8:15 & 10:30  
(Easter Breakfast served 9:15-10:15)



## From the Desk of Pastor Carl

Hey YALL...

I have some Good News for you.....

As I write this, we are already in the last week of the 2023 Lenten Journey, and forward we go to **Palm Sunday and into Holy week, which ends on the Cross** --- only to begin with the **Resurrection of Jesus Christ**. Yes, time passes quickly as we look back 2000+ years ago ----- to our present times ----- and where we want to be on our faith life journey.

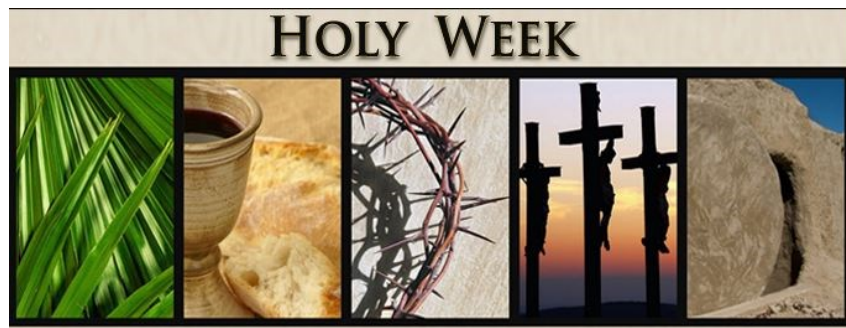
Our Lenten journey is intended to provide us time to slow down, reflect on our faith life, and fully grasp what it means to be a follower of Christ. Our youth did just that in the month of March. We continued meeting on Wednesdays after Holden Evening prayers sharing highs, lows, and whatever was on their minds over a meal at church or a local eatery.

Our confirmands went on a confirmation retreat to Lutheridge, and it was exciting to see our youth and others participate and come together to create worship. **YES! Created** worship....it was beautiful. They created a confessional song out of the imagination of youthfulness, and let me not forget that they created a different version of the Lord's Prayer too. They talked about the Creed, The Commandments, and Holy Baptism. They asked questions and shared their thoughts and opinions about the church, where it is in their lives, and where and what they would like to see in the church. Hearing from the youth and dreaming with them was an eye-opening and humbling experience.

We finished our Lenten Wednesday night drama with a skit from the youth about the pressures of teenage bullying, suicide, and the power of Christ. It was an amazing experience to be a part of and witness. If you want to see it live,

(Continued on page 5)





**Palm / Passion Sunday, April 2 - Procession of Palms & Passion Reading, 8:15 & 10:30 pm**

Be sure to be present on Sunday, April 2, for this powerful worship experience to begin the holiest week of our lives. We begin on the front lawn with the Procession of Palms, and then move into the sanctuary for the full reading of Christ's Holy Passion. Spread the word - and invite your friends!

**Holy Monday, April 3 - Service of Blessing & Healing, Noon & 6:45pm**

As part of this worship experience, we receive a special blessing and prayer for God's wholeness and healing in our lives, in whatever form it may be needed.

**Holy Wednesday, April 4 - Matthew "Book of Month" Bible Reading posted online @ Noon**

**Maundy Thursday, April 6 - Holy Communion, noon & 6:45pm**

We remember our Lord's Last Supper, and how Jesus washed his disciples' feet in the upper room. 6:45pm Worship concludes with the poignant and powerful Stripping of the Altar. For those who wish the Rite of Foot-Washing is offered before & after 6:45 worship. *6:45pm available online.*

**Good Friday, April 7 - Tenebrae "Words from the Cross" Service, 6:45pm**

***Walking of the Cross, 9am & 3pm***

With increasing darkness in the Tenebrae Service, we recall Jesus' 7 sayings spoken from the cross. Earlier in the day, at 9am and 3pm, we join with Christians across the world in the devotional practice of "walking the cross." Wherever we are this day, we pause in special reverence at 3:00 - the hour Jesus breathed his last. *6:45pm available online.*

**Holy Saturday, April 8- Easter Vigil, 7:30pm**

We gather by a fire and enter the sanctuary to remember the waiting of that night when our Lord lay in the tomb. We hear foundational stories of Scripture, affirm our identity as God's baptized children, and welcome Easter joy!

**+ EASTER SUNDAY, April 9 +**

**Outdoor Son-Rise Service @ 6:45 am**

**Festival Worship - 8:15 am & 10:30 am**

At 6:45, we worship outdoors with our Son-Rise celebration. Easter Worship will be held in the sanctuary at 8:15 and sanctuary/vehicle/online at 10:30, with special music. Invite friends & neighbors to worship on this glorious day!

**Easter Breakfast, 9:15-10:15**

Easter breakfast will be hosted by Lutheran Men from 9:15-10:15, with donations to support the Legrand/Lowman Scholarship Fund.



## Good Friday "Walking of the Cross"

April 7 – 9am & 3pm

Over the centuries, Christians have joined in many devotional experiences to embrace the deep meaning of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. One such practice is the "Walking of the Cross," where Christians publicly carry a large wooden cross on Good Friday. This year, Living Springs will share this experience with our neighbors, using the wooden cross from the front lawn.

At **9am** (hour Jesus was nailed to the cross), we will gather with our Wooden Cross in front of **Harmony (2300 Clemson Rd.)** for a time of prayer with the residents there. Then, we will process safely on the sidewalk, carrying the cross ½ mile back to LS for prayer here. You can take turns with partners carrying the cross – or you can just walk along behind the cross. We will pause at various points for prayer & Scripture. At **3pm** (hour Jesus died), we will do another Walking of the Cross, beginning at **WaterCrest (1951 Clemson Rd)**, with 0.3 mile on the sidewalk back to LS.

You can participate in one or both of the walks. There is a sign-up sheet to help with planning. Each walk should take less than 1 hour. Walkers will carpool/bus to the starting site (just come to LS at either 8:45 or 2:45). Whether or not you can be part of a walk, please pause for prayer at 9am and 3pm on Good Friday, wherever you may be. Good Friday Tenebrae Worship will be held at church at 6:45pm.



## Lenten 40X40 H.O.P.E. Collection

During Lent, we put God's love in action by making Personal Care Kits for neighbors in the poorest parts of the world. As always, our goal for Lent is 40 X 40 = 1600 total items. Today, the individual items will be assembled into full kits.

### Personal Care Kits include:

- Two bars 4-5 oz. soap (in original wrapping)
- One lightweight bath towel 20x40 to 52x27 (dark color recommended)
- One adult toothbrush (in original packaging)
- One sturdy comb
- One nail clipper (metal)



***If you cannot stay today for the Family Event to help assemble the kits and would like to bring a complete Personal Care Kit, please drop it off during the week.***

*To assemble your kit ... Fold towel in half. Place the rest of the items in the towel, fold and roll and secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands.*

## LENTEN DRAMA WORSHIP

*Still Available to Watch Online*

*Contemporary Encounters of Growing Hope...*

Temptation in the Wilderness

Spiritual Yearning (*based on Nicodemus*)

Belonging (*based on Woman at the Well*)

Transformation & Sight (*based on Blind Man*)

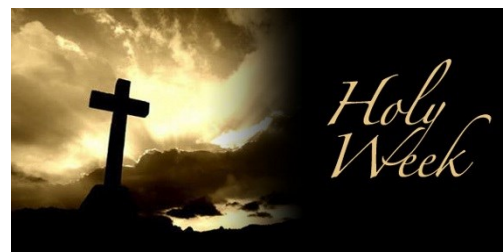
New Life & Hope (*based on Mary/Martha/Lazarus*)

**You can view all of the dramas  
on our YouTube Channel:**

<http://bit.ly/3TXAewW>

## Holy Week/ Easter Worship Helpers

Plenty of spots available for our Holy Week and Easter Worship services. Lectors, Ushers, Parking Lot Greeters, Acolytes, Crucifer, Torchbearers, Bible Bearers, and Welcome Table volunteers are needed. Sign up at the welcome table or through Ministry Scheduler Pro. Contact Karen Kranz with questions.



# From the Desk of Pastor Carl continues...

(Continued from page 2)

please visit our **YouTube** or **Facebook** page.

As we move into **Holy Week, the Cross, and the Resurrection**, let us be humbled in the remembrance of what Jesus when through for us. Let us see, I mean, really see those we look over every day. Let our light shine so people can see the Christ in us. Let us lift the people in our congregation who are hurting, grieving, in pain, and sad. Let us say a kind word, lift a prayer, or pray with them. Let us continue to share words of wisdom with our youth and pray for them in their struggles in life and school, as their safety should be our number one concern.

As we journey to the **CROSS**.....keep Jesus foremost in our minds and the love for others in our hearts....

**Say this out loud.....**

**Open the eyes of my heart Lord ----- I want to see you....**

Grace and Peace...



Pastor Carl -----



## Notes from: *Emotional - Mental Wellness*

Congregation Gathering - Guest Welcome Award-Recognized Counselor Gia Quiñones!



## Notes from: *Lifelong Discipleship* **BOOKS OF MONTH: 2022-23**

SEPTEMBER	Genesis 1-25	MARCH	Matthew 1-14
OCTOBER	Genesis 26-30	APRIL	Matthew 15-28
NOVEMBER	Exodus 1-24, 31-34	MAY	Acts 1-14
DECEMBER	John 1-21	JUNE	Acts 15-28
JANUARY	Ruth 1-4 & 1 Samuel 1-20	JULY	Galatians 1-6 & Romans 1-16
FEBRUARY	Isaiah 1-12, 35, 40-55, 56-62	AUGUST	Hebrews 1-13, 1 John 1-5, 1 Peter 1-5

**hope** we celebrate in this holy season. That 5th tree & that little cross remind me of Isaiah’s prophetic words about a “suffering servant” who would come to bear the iniquities & brokenness of all the people. They remind me of Paul’s words from Philippians about One equal with God emptying himself and becoming obedient even unto death (on a cross). They remind me of words from John’s gospel about God so loving this world that God would give the only Son.

Behind the words we proclaim each Sunday about being “**part of God’s growing hope for the world,**” there stands the cross of Jesus’ love! Behind folks working at **Friday night fish fry’s** to give hope for college students, there stands the cross of Jesus’ love! Behind the baskets filled with **disaster kits** in the office hallway, there stands the cross of Jesus’ love! Behind youth & confirmation students growing in faith at a **Lutheridge retreat**, there stands the cross of Jesus’ love! Behind adults gathering for Bible studies and **Bible Book of the month** learning times, and **Centering Prayer** classes, there stands the cross of Jesus’ love! Behind the **Emotional-Mental Wellness** group times & last month’s powerful gathering with Counselor Gia Quinones, there stands the cross of Jesus’ love! Behind meals being delivered to **Campus Ministry Students, Palmetto Place young adults, Children’s Hospital families, Meals on Wheels routes**, there stands the cross of Jesus’ love! Behind the incredible gathering of hundreds & hundreds for the **Nehemiah Justice Assembly**, including so many people of the Christian faith, there stands the cross of Jesus’ love! Behind the nearly 300 bags of hope shared with **Rush Hour drivers**, there stands the cross of Jesus’ love! Behind dozens of children being nurtured each day by faithful staff in our **Child Development Center**, there stands the cross of Jesus’ love! Behind those powerful **Lenten dramas, Matthew Bible worship readings, livestreamed worship** experiences, there stands the cross of Jesus’ love!

Oh yes, this week ahead IS truly the most holy & important week of our lives, as it points us to **that 5th tree—the cross of Jesus**, with a love for all humanity sealed by his victory over death and an empty tomb of Easter! May that empty tomb & tree of hope truly plant God’s hope in the soil of our hearts as we worship together in these holy days ahead!

With prayers for a meaningful Holy Week and joyful Easter for each of you! Much love, *Pastor Eric*



- Opportunities to Share & Experience the joy of God’s Growing Hope here in April:*
- LENTEN FISH FRY—March 31 (5-7pm)
  - CRISTO REY MINISTRY—April 2
  - SUNDAY MORNING BACKPACKS—Apr. 2, 23
  - CENTERING PRAYER—Apr. 2, 16, 23
  - BEER ‘N HYMNS—April 17
  - CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL MEAL—April 20
  - CAMP KINARD SUNDAY—April 23
  - PALMETTO PLACE MEAL—April 27
  - MEALS ON WHEELS—each Mon & Tues

### 2023 LIVING SPRINGS MINISTRY FOCUS

*Like a tree planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, we are baptized, rooted & nurtured in Christ to be part of*

### **GOD’S GROWING HOPE FOR THE WORLD:**

**Breaking down barriers** by sowing seeds of **God’s grace for all!**

**Serving daily** as instruments of **God’s life-transforming hope** for others!

**Inviting everyone** to experience the **joy of life in God’s diverse Kingdom garden!**

**Joyfully living & proclaiming** the **unconditional, reconciling love of Jesus** for the world!



*Nourished by the living waters of God’s grace and led by the Holy Spirit, we are called to live in faith with each other & our community through these 2023 Ministry Focus Areas:*



### **Sow Additional Seeds of God’s Growing Hope!**

- \* *Forming relational Mentoring Ministries in our congregation & community*
- \* *Meeting & going beyond our church walls, to carry Christ’s presence into the community*
- \* *Creating deeper relational ministries of Support, Care, Prayer, and Faith-Building for all ages*
- \* *Developing/partnering for specific Food Ministries (& other Life-Necessities) in our community*

### **Nurture the Growing Hope that God Has Already Sprouted & Bloomed!**

- \* *Implementing Emotional-Mental Wellness Initiatives (incl. recovery ministries)*
- \* *Offering multiple modes of Worship & Bible Study (incl. creative technology options)*
- \* *Fostering Diversity/Inclusion in our congregation & community (incl. bi-lingual options, ASL)*
- \* *Building on Ecumenical/Community Partnerships for God’s work (incl. Justice, NE partners, Mission partners, R2, LCM)*
- \* *Growing Music Ministries to joyfully praise God & celebrate God’s Grace for all*
- \* *Expanding Faith-Life Ministries with children & youth (CDC, GIFT worship, Youth, Ftbll, Scouts, Palmetto Place, etc.)*
- \* *Continuing Outreach Ministries that meet people where they are (especially those on the margins, such as at-risk children/youth, homelessness, refugees, imprisoned, veterans, seniors, those with special needs)*

# Notes from: *Living Springs Child Development Center*

## From Tammy Mancuso, Director

Blessings for new beginnings to all,

As we move into the Sneazy Spring Season we have much to celebrate. We have vast opportunities to see HOPE growing in the world around us. As we take notice of the change in season we are reminded, through God's creation, that HOPE GROWS even in the moments that seem still.

HOPE continues to GROW in our CDC ministry with the many ways we find to share and receive with one another.

The children helped hope GROW as they created about 200 Easter cards for our Senior Friends at Rice Estates and other Hope Outreach Ministries.

The CDC staff felt hope GROW as they enjoyed complimentary meals from the Lenten Fish Fry.

Our CDC children watched hope GROW as they assisted in packing items for the backpack and Rush Hour ministries.

The CDC honored the legacy of how Mr. Fred Rogers planted seeds of hope to GROW kindness on "Won't you be my neighbor day" by wearing sweaters or red shirts.

Mr. Hubbard the veteran that our children went to sing "Happy Birthday" to on his 100th birthday gave our children reminders of how hope can GROW by giving each child and staff member one of his handmade crosses.

Our CDC classes are helping to GROW hope through our HEIFER International project, as each class is raising funds for a different animal or item. The class goals are to raise enough for 2 sets of Honeybees, 2 sets of chicks, 1 pig, 1 sheep, and 1 set of garden seeds. Please feel free to donate funds if you feel moved to do so.

There is much to be thankful for as we move into the next season. The weather begins to warm, the insects begin to buzz, and the animals begin to move about with more hurried activity. Even in the quietness of the soil that looks undisturbed, there is creation, there is movement, and there is newness. We are thankful for the reminder of spring; that after the cold and dark moments, life will again appear, with newness, joy, and warmth. I continue to be grateful for the daily reminder and opportunities to see, feel, hear, and know the HOPE that GROWS from the work that God does through the ministry of Living Springs.

Wishing you well,

Tammy



## Notes from: *Mission Partnership Team*

### **LS Ministries with Cristo Rey!**

**Sun. 4/2 @ 4:15pm**

We provide a Bible lesson, crafts, singing, and snacks for the children of our Mission Partner, Cristo Rey, in West Columbia. We have team leaders, but 5-6 volunteer helpers are needed, plus a snack for up to 20 children. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Volunteers will meet at LS at 4:15 and carpool to Cristo Rey. The children speak English, so Spanish is not a requirement.



## Notes from: *Good News Team*

### **Beer N Hymns IS BACK!!!**

We know you have been asking for this awesome experience and we are working our way back slowly to ensure everyone is safe and joyful in song!



**Monday, April 17th  
from 7-9pm @ Beef O'Bradys!!**

Our musicians will be Pr. Jesse Caniff-Kuhn guitarist and lead vocal from USC Campus Ministry, Kris Fink guitarist from LS, Hunter Prest cajon player from LS, Jeremy Grainger guitarist and Carsten Bryant on electric, both from Trinity UMC! Bring a friend!



Rush Hour Ministry—one of the best places where you can truly and genuinely see and feel the Holy Spirit at work!

### **Here's God at Work.....**

"I felt God's presence as we waved, smiled, and prayed for those driving by the church during rush hour. Everything going on in the world, and our country, lately has left me feeling very despondent. It was good for my soul to be a part of sharing God's love to the community, and receiving some joy back in return."

### **LS Good News Bible Reading Project**

***Catch this month's stories in our [YouTube Bible Project Playlist](#)***

***God with Us: A Refugee Child - read by Steve Padgett***

***A New Ministry of Hope - read by Bob Gill***

***Lessons of Life from a Great Teacher - read by Rylee Harris***

***Expanding the Mission of Hope - read by Midge Gunvalson***

***Hope in the Midst of Trials - read by John Imbert***

***April Stories: Sent to Carry a Cross of Love; The Teacher's Final Lesson;  
A Time for Love & Disappointment; Victory of Life & A Promise***

In an effort to get God's Word out to all, the Good News Team is doing a Bible Reading Project in conjunction with the Devotional Weekly Worship. Each Wednesday, a Bible story from our Bible "Book" of the Month will be read at the beginning of the service. The worship will be livestreamed, so we are asking you to share on all your social media platforms. By sharing, that story will get to someone who may need to hear it and possibly never heard that story before! We can all be a part of the Good News Team!



# Notes from: *Hope Ministry*

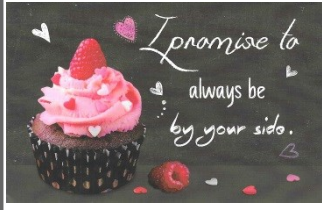
## BACKPACKS

Our stuff a bus continues to be a blessing - **our only need currently is milk**. During your weekly or monthly shopping, if you could pick up a 6-pk. of milk and place it in the backpack shopping cart. Sunday April 2, you can help pack double (140 bags) for spring break before and after the 10:30 worship. At the Nehemiah Assembly, it was interesting to hear the correlation between Food Justice and our Backpack Program - "We gotta include...food!" - 65,000 Richland County residents are food insecure and how many of their children are recipients of our backpacks?

## FAMILY PROMISE MEAL

Living Springs has committed to providing a meal for the Family Promise families currently in the program on Thursday, April 13. If you would like to help prepare our famous meatloaf dinner (meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, dessert), we will be preparing the meal for three families in the afternoon and delivering probably around 5 pm. If interested, contact [Karen Kranz](#).

## GOD STORY



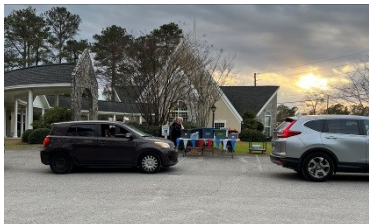
Out of the blue, I received a Valentine card (in March) "I promise to always be by your side." signed by our good friend Smiley. It probably should not have meant that much, but it hit me - how thoughtful of a gesture that was and so simple. The inside had no verse, no words, just signed "Smiley" and I thought about God's promise to always be with us unconditionally and what a comforting feeling that was!

## Delivering Easter Bags to Rice Estate



## LENTEN FISH FRY FOR CAMPUS MINISTRY

To-date with one more week to go, we have made \$2,823 that is going to be applied to our commitment of \$4,000 to USC Campus Ministry. What a joy it was to see so many students show up to help on March 24 and one student expressed an exciting interest in our backpack program so we will probably see a new face at our Sunday packing. Pastor Jesse is creating a spiritual home away from home in welcoming all students regardless of denomination, gender, religious beliefs or non-beliefs! We have a couple of Living Springs college students participating - Sydnie Taylor and Rylee Harris and also involvement of families & ministry groups providing Sunday meals. The Holy Spirit is definitely at work!



# Notes from: *Justice Ministry*

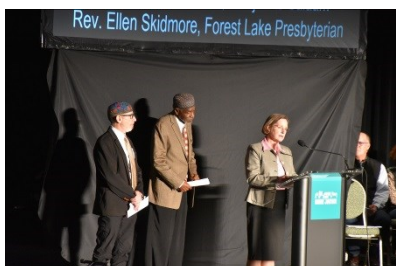
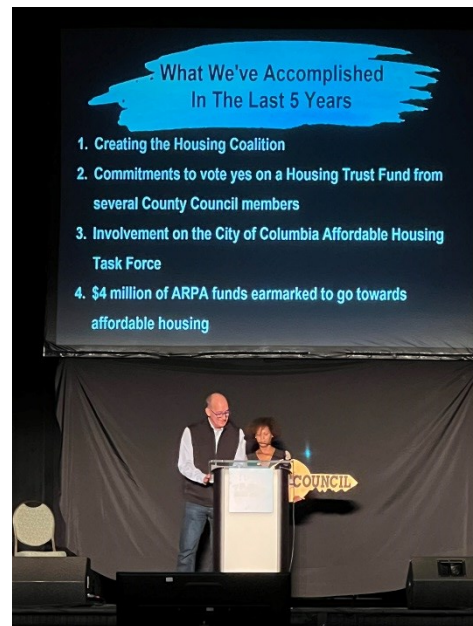
"March-ing" into April, the Living Springs Justice Ministry has much to give thanks for and to celebrate! We saw God at work as we came together to address important community problems that plague the lives of thousands of our neighbors in the Midlands.



On March 13<sup>th</sup> the MORE Justice Rally brought together Living Springs members, along with hundreds of other people of faith, to prepare to ask public officials for changes that would address important community problems, namely, food insecurity, safe and affordable housing, crime and gun violence, and care for those with mental illness. At the Rally we heard about the research that was conducted all year to identify proven solutions to address these needs. We heard what we would be asking for when we met with our officials.

On March 27<sup>th</sup> the Justice work for this year came to fruition. Living Springs members and friends joined almost 800 other people of faith at the Township Auditorium for the Nehemiah Action to speak up for our neighbors in need. The Mayor, the Police Chief, a spokesperson from the Sheriff, and several Council members also were there, listening and responding to what they heard. The large turnout – People Power – helped make the event a success. There was a positive response to what MORE Justice was asking for: greater access to publicly owned land for local healthy food initiatives (e.g., community gardens and produce stands), exploration of ways to keep the Mobile Market financially sustainable long-term, continuing pursuit of an affordable housing trust fund, continuing progress in operationalizing the Office of Violent Crime Prevention, and continuing CIT training for law enforcement. God blessed us with a powerful evening when "Justice rolled down like the waters and righteousness like a mighty stream" (Amos 5:24) !

Coming together with 25 other congregations – People Power - made it possible to ask for changes for our neighbors and to have public officials listen and respond. Living Springs heard God's call and stepped out in faith to bring people together (as did Nehemiah) to do justice. God was present as we follow the scriptural mandate to "do Justice" (Micah 6:8) and we surely felt that blessing each and every step of the way! Thanks be to God.



# Notes from: *Worship & Music Ministry*

## The Wonder of Worship

### Getting Ready to “Go to Church”

We’ve been talking about what it means to “worship.” In worship we pour out our love for God, and God responds by pouring out love to us through water, word, meal, and the joy of Christian fellowship. This mutual relationship of love transforms our lives and then flows from us to others. While it’s true that we don’t have to be in a church building to worship God, when we *do* meet on Sundays, every gathering is meant to be a very special time—something anticipated, savored, cherished. Christians in America are blessed to have the freedom to go to church anytime and anyplace, but we never want to take that freedom for granted or let it become too routine.



Here's a couple ways to make “going to church” more of an *adventure* . . . before you even get in the car Sunday morning! Both can be adapted for your own situation from your own imagination.



**Prepare ahead of time.** Come up with one or a few ways to think ahead about the purpose and joy of Sunday worship on Saturday evening and/or Sunday morning. There’s a scene in *Fiddler on the Roof* where the family is rushing about trying to get everything ready before the sun goes down and Sabbath begins. The same mad dash would have happened every Friday. Things had to be done and done well; traditions (to use Tevye’s word) needed to be prepared for and enjoyed because each Sabbath was so important, so precious.

How could we anticipate our “Sabbath” gatherings? A few ideas: Maybe by having a short prayer time sometime on Saturday—maybe even with some candles? We could pray for our services at Living Springs and those held all over the world. Maybe by getting an earlier start on Saturday chores so we’re not as likely to fall into bed exhausted late Saturday night? And a corollary: Go to bed earlier than usual! Maybe have clothes and other stuff picked out Saturday evening so Sunday morning isn’t so much of a rush? Maybe special music and/or food Sunday morning? You get the idea.

**Imagine that going to church is not a given.** First century Christians met for worship in a hostile environment. It would be centuries before the Roman Empire embraced Christianity. So “going to church,” which was usually at someone’s home, was potentially dangerous. You’d probably be looking over your shoulder on your trip, concerned about who might be watching. Sadly, the same is true in many places in the world today, with China just one example. A few decades ago there was some tolerance for Christians meeting together, but things have tightened up (unless you attend a state-approved church). For persecuted Christians in any era, outside pressure was and is difficult, but it also stands to make inside fellowship even sweeter and more joyful. How about one Sunday pretending that, though it’s going to be dangerous, you literally *can’t wait* to get to church to be with your brothers and sisters for fellowship and worship?



Let me know if you try any of these things.

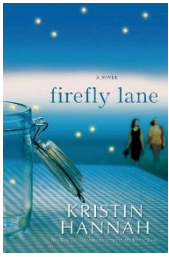
Shirl Schiffman [shirl@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:shirl@livingspringscolumbia.org)

## Lenten Drama Worship



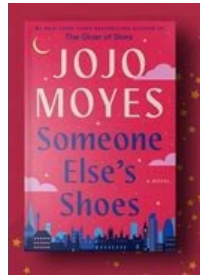
# Notes from: *Women's Ministry*

## LADIES BOOK CLUB



Monday, April 3 at 7 pm, a group of ladies will discuss *Firefly Lane* by Kristin Hannah. We will meet at Leena Skiba's, 13 Stone Pine Ct. 29229 ph: 803.361.2612.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, June 5 at 7 pm and we will be reading *Someone Else's Shoes* by Jojo Moyes. We have fun in our discussions and enjoy some refreshments along with it - feel free to join us!



# Notes from: *Sr. Youth*

## Faith Alive Retreat



## Serving Dinner @ Lutheran Campus Ministry





**BUILDING+RENEWING+BELIEVING:**

# Holy Spaces

*A Capital Campaign supporting the ministry of Camp Kinard*

Since 1972, the **South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers** has proudly offered facilities to Lutheran churches and countless other organizations for day events and overnight retreats. Two unique locations serve a variety of guests.

Situated directly across the street from the beautiful Atlantic ocean, **Coastal Retreat** welcomes guests year-round for times of relaxation, fellowship, and spiritual renewal. Coastal Retreat features 20 bedrooms available to both groups and individuals seeking time away on retreat.

**Camp Kinard** sits on 325 acres located just 30 minutes outside of the Columbia area. Multiple options for groups of any size are available when it comes to lodging and meeting spaces. Our **Lodge Rooms** feature two double beds, private bathrooms, and are perfect for adult guests on retreat. Our bunk-bed style **Cottages** can sleep up to 16 people per building and feature two bedrooms with a common living area.

Camp Kinard also offers walking trails, two ponds, large fields for outdoor activities, picnic pavilions, RV/Tent campsites, and a high & low ropes course. Led by one of our staff, the ropes courses encourage teamwork and are excellent for group-building exercises.

**The Jesus Way** is a gentle 1.5 mile loop around camp with signposts encouraging time for prayer and discernment. Devotions are found under the resource section of our website for on-site campers or for anyone to use as they walk their neighborhood at home.

When we proclaim that “**all are welcome**”, this means that we invite everyone without regard to race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, physical or mental ability, economic status, or marital status.

**The staff** of the South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers has a long history of providing exceptional hospitality to groups and individuals while on retreat. Deacon Dallas Shealy serves as the executive director.

Our history is a narrative of the **Holy Spirit at work** amongst us. Time and time again, the Holy Spirit has provided what is needed for each day, our daily bread. Faithful leaders have worked with numerous bishops, pastors, and congregations over the decades to create an amazing legacy of outdoor ministry right here in South Carolina. From LCY events to WELCA conferences, Men’s Work Days and church council retreats, many people have found a welcome here.

Our mission is **providing holy spaces** for God to change lives. It is time for a significant investment in the present and future of Camp Kinard.

We are seeking to raise \$2.2 million dollars to erect a wonderful **chapel** overlooking the lake, to build a new handicap accessible **swimming pool**, and to update the **entranceway**. Celebrate the past and welcome the future!

*The South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers is a non-profit ministry of the South Carolina Synod - ELCA, that proudly operates Camp Kinard (Batesburg-Leesville, SC) and Coastal Retreat (Isle of Palms, SC).*

**6035 Two Notch Road, Batesburg-Leesville, SC 29070 (803) 532-3183 | [www.sclrc.com](http://www.sclrc.com) | [contactus@sclrc.com](mailto:contactus@sclrc.com)  
EIN: 57-0855630**

**Holy Spaces Commitment Sunday  
Congregation Gathering**  
*Sunday, April 23 @ 9:20 in the Fellowship Hall*

# April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>MAIN SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b>                      1025 Pre-Worship Prayer Time  <b>1030A WORSHIP (Sanctuary/ Parking Lot FM/Online)</b> - includes Children's GIFT Faith Learning</p>						
<p><b>2 PALM SUNDAY</b>                      *See box above                      Before/After Worship—Backpacks                      12P Confirmation                      3P Egg Hunt                      4P Centering Prayer Group                      430P Girl Scouts                      5P Cristo Rey Ministry (Meet LS 415)</p>	<p><b>3 Holy Monday</b>                      1030A Meals on Wheels  <b>Noon Service of Healing</b>                      645P Service of Healing                      7P Recovery Comes First                      7P Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>4 Holy Tuesday</b>                      10A Ladies Bible Study                      1030A Meals on Wheels                      330P LSCDC Chapel                      7P Handbells</p>	<p><b>5 Holy Wednesday</b>                      1030A Preschool Bible Time  <b>Noon BOM Bible Posted</b>                      330P Afterschool Bible Time                      515P Disciples of Harmony                      6P Choir                      6P Hope Team</p>	<p><b>6 MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>  <b>Noon Worship</b>                      630P Recovery Comes First  <b>645P Worship</b></p>	<p><b>7 GOOD FRIDAY</b>  <b>9A Walking of Cross</b>  <b>3P Walking of Cross</b>  <b>645P Tenebrae</b>  <b>Worship</b></p>	<p><b>8 Holy Saturday</b>                      9A Decorating                      930A Choir                      930 Crafty Ladies  <b>730P Easter Vigil</b></p>
<p><b>9 EASTER SUNDAY</b>                      *See box above  <b>645A SonRise Worship</b>  <b>915-1015 Easter Breakfast</b>  <b>815A Easter Worship</b>  <b>1030A Easter Festival Worship</b></p>	<p><b>10</b>                      1030A Meals on Wheels                      7P Recovery Comes First                      7P Fellowship Mutual Care</p>	<p><b>11</b>                      10A Bible Book of Month                      1030A Meals on Wheels                      530P Finance Team                      6P Adult Bible Study                      7P Handbells                      7P Wellness TF</p>	<p><b>12</b>                      1030A CDC Bible Time  <b>Noon BOM Dev. Worship</b></p>	<p><b>13</b>                      7A Bible &amp; Biscuits Men's Bible Study                      830A Staff Breakfast                      1P LS Justice Tm Leaders                      630P LSCDC Board                      7P Youth &amp; Children Ministry Team</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>
<p><b>16 *See box above</b>                      12P Confirmation                      920P Bible Book of Month Study                      4P Centering Prayer Group                      430P Girl Scouts                      515P Disciple Gathering Leaders</p>	<p><b>17</b>                      1030A Meals on Wheels                      7-9P Beer 'N Hymns                      7P Recovery Comes First                      7P Boy Scouts                      Exec Team—TBA</p>	<p><b>18</b>                      10A Ladies Bible Study                      1030A Meals on Wheels                      330P LSCDC Chapel                      6P Adult Bible Study                      7P Handbells</p>	<p><b>19</b>                      1030A Preschool Bible Time  <b>Noon BOM Dev. Worship</b>                      330P Afterschool Bible Time                      500P Disciples of Harmony                      515P Choir                      630P Sr. Youth (LSLC)</p>	<p><b>20</b>                      330P Backpack Ministry                      630P Recovery Comes First                      7P Council Meeting                      Children's Hospital Meal</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23 *See box above</b>                      Before/After Worship—Backpacks  <b>Camp Kinard Sunday</b>                      920P "Holy Spaces" Cong. Gathering                      2P GraceWorks Planning (Ebenezer)                      4P Centering Prayer Group                      430P Girl Scouts                      515P Mental-Emotional Wellness Group</p>	<p><b>24</b>                      1030A Meals on Wheels                      7P Recovery Comes First                      7P Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>25</b>                      10A Ladies Bible Study                      1030A Meals on Wheels                      330P LSCDC Chapel                      6P Adult Bible Study                      630P Justice Tm Assembly                      7P Handbells</p>	<p><b>26</b>                      1030A Preschool Bible Time  <b>Noon BOM Dev. Worship</b>                      330P Afterschool Bible Time                      500P Disciples of Harmony                      515P Choir                      630P Sr. Youth (Mod Pizza)</p>	<p><b>27</b>                      7A Bible &amp; Biscuits Men's Bible Study                      630P Recovery Comes First                      Palmetto Place Meal</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b>                      8A Men's Breakfast Gathering</p>
<p><b>30 *See box above</b>                      12P Confirmation                      330P Eagle Scout Ceremony                      430P Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>1</b>                      1030A Meals on Wheels                      6P Worship Team</p>	<p><b>2</b>                      10A Ladies Bible Study                      1030A Meals on Wheels                      330P LSCDC Chapel                      6P Adult Bible Study                      7P Handbells</p>	<p><b>3</b>  <b>Noon BOM Dev. Worship</b>                      6P Hope Team                      500P Disciples of Harmony                      515P Choir                      630P Sr. Youth (LSLC)</p>	<p><b>4</b>                      330P Backpack Ministry                      630P Recovery Comes First                      7P Lifelong Discipleship</p>		

## Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

<b>April 2</b>	Sherry Forsgren Nicolas Kopec	<b>April 16</b>	Gene Hale Meredith McKenzie
<b>April 3</b>	Karen Kranz	<b>April 19</b>	Carl Taylor
<b>April 4</b>	♥ Mark & Karlene Stuart	<b>April 21</b>	Asher Depaoli
<b>April 6</b>	Todd Gunvalson		Karl Schmidt
<b>April 7</b>	Bill Franck	<b>April 25</b>	Tammy Mancuso
<b>April 11</b>	Mike Davidson Jim Zieche	<b>April 27</b>	Elouise Niemeyer
<b>April 12</b>	Jeff Tenhover	<b>April 28</b>	Mark Stuart
<b>April 13</b>	Jeff Lummel		



### Celebrate Your Baptism

Don't forget to check the bulletin to see if we will be celebrating your Baptismal Anniversary during this month's Sunday worship services. Immediately below the Gathering Music, there are printed the names of those who are celebrating a baptismal anniversary **in that week**. When the gathering music begins, individuals can quietly come forward to meet Pastor Eric at the baptismal fountain. There, he will re-trace the cross with the water on your forehead and offer a special prayer of blessing for you (children may be accompanied by parents). There is nothing to be anxious about - everything is done quietly while the music is being played. For those who know only the month of your Baptism, you can join us on the first Sunday of the month (if you prefer some other Sunday, please let us know). **If you do not know your baptismal information, then please pick a month when you would like to celebrate this gift of God's grace in your life – and notify the office**, so that we can add you to the celebration list (we'll simply mark the choice of your month with an asterisk). Even if you don't know the exact date, it's important to celebrate this special gift of God's grace in your life. Again, we encourage everyone to research your Baptismal date and find out as much information as you can – let us know if we can help!



<b>April 1</b>	Gary Bradham Tammy Mancuso Jerry Mancuso Adriana McMurphy	<b>April 11</b>	Wayne Kannaday	<b>April 19</b>	Sophia Skipper
<b>April 3</b>	Luke Sorial	<b>April 12</b>	Jan Berger	<b>April 20</b>	Kyle Dymont
<b>April 8</b>	Samuel Skipper	<b>April 13</b>	Bob Gill		Daniel Hampton
<b>April 10</b>	Marshall Hurlbert Nicholas Kopec Becky Sides Peg Zieche	<b>April 14</b>	Charles Pollard	<b>April 23</b>	Laura Turnmire
		<b>April 15</b>	Melanie Mooney	<b>April 24</b>	Mallory Padgett
			Ted Buchanan	<b>April 25</b>	Judy Lawrence
			Bill Franck	<b>April 28</b>	Austin Padgett
			Retha Murray		
		<b>April 16</b>	McKenzie Taylor Sydnie Taylor		

## **CHURCH STAFF**

People of Living Springs - Ministers

Rev. Eric Fink – Senior Pastor

[pastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:pastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org)

Rev. Carl Taylor - Associate Pastor

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Deacon Lexanne Graves – E-Outreach Coordinator

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Tammy Mancuso- Dir. of Child Development Center

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Lisa Petty – Good News Coordinator

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Laura & Mark Cunningham - Food Resource Persons

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Sherry Forsgren – Bookkeeper

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Laura Turnmire – Handbell Choir Director

[laurabells@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:laurabells@livingspringscolumbia.org)

Seminarian Paula Perry

[seminarian@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:seminarian@livingspringscolumbia.org)

## **CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS**

[Joel Holmstrom](#) - President

[Laura Turnmire](#) - Vice-President

[Brantley Smith](#) - Secretary

[Mike Davidson](#) - Treasurer

[Bill Ramsey](#) – Financial Secretary

[Hunter Prest](#) - Youth Representative

[Rev. Eric Fink](#) – Senior Pastor

[Rev. Carl Taylor](#) - Associate Pastor

[Gary Bradham](#)

[Barb Imbert](#)

[Lorenzo Hampton](#)

[London Mancuso](#)

[Ron Ramsey](#)

[Ashley Stoutland](#)

[Tom Willingham](#)

## **MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS**

Child Development Center

Susan Bradham

Children/Youth Ministries

Leslie Bloss/Jan Berger/  
Adriana McMurphy/London Mancuso

Fellowship & Mutual Care

Trish Davidson & Wendy McKenzie

Good News Team

Lisa Petty

Hope Ministries

Karen Kranz

Justice Ministry

Helen Doerpinghaus

Lifelong Discipleship

Steve Bloss

Lutheran Men in Mission

Bob Turnmire

Women of the ELCA

Ginny Devereaux & Gwen Furcron

Worship & Music

Jim Zieche

Facilities

Ed Brennan

Finance

Karlene Stuart

Archives/Pew Bears

Judy Lawrence

## **LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Prayer Requests